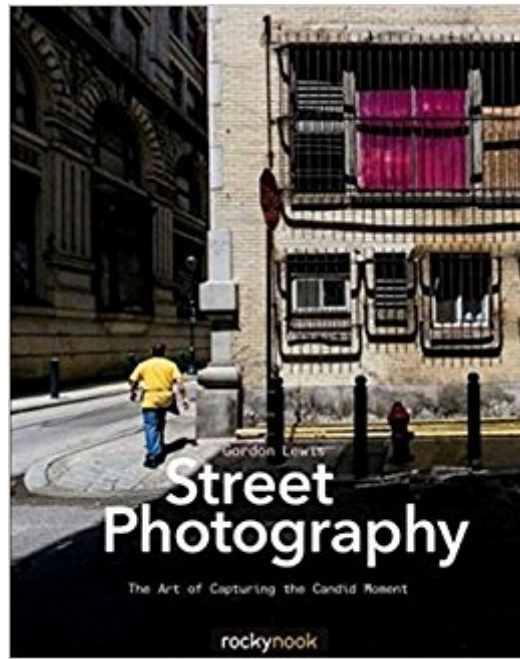




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# Street Photography: The Art Of Capturing The Candid Moment



## Synopsis

Since the advent of the camera, there have been photographers whose mission is to record and interpret the public sphere in all its aspects. Eugene Atget documented evidence of everyday life in the streets as well as the buildings and monuments of Paris. Henri Cartier-Bresson pursued what he called "The Decisive Moment," the moment in which the meaning of an event was most clearly captured in a photograph. Their work, and that of many other masters, has inspired generations of photographers to wander public spaces, camera in hand, searching for meaningful moments in time. Success requires the street photographer to be proficient with their equipment, to be constantly aware of their surroundings, and to have a keen eye. Quick reflexes and self-confidence are essential: Street photographers know from experience that hesitation or procrastination could mean missing a once-in-a-lifetime shot. The adage "it's better to ask for forgiveness than permission" was probably coined by a street photographer. In *Street Photography: The Art of Capturing the Candid Moment*, Gordon Lewis helps readers understand and conquer the challenging yet rewarding world of street photography. The book includes discussions of why photographers are drawn to street photography, the different styles of street photography, and what makes a great street photograph. Lewis then goes on to explore how the choice of location can change a photographer's approach to image capture: from city streets to fairs to beaches, Lewis discusses the impact different environments have on the process of street photography. Another crucial element to becoming a good street photographer is learning to travel light, with minimal equipment. Lewis gives readers practical advice on everything from cameras and lenses to camera bags and clothing. Lewis also delves into the techniques and approaches that will help novices master the art of street photography. Whether your style is to engage your subjects or to remain unnoticed and take candid portraits, Lewis offers ideas on how to capture fascinating moments in time: a gesture, expression, or composition that may exist for only a fraction of a second, but can leave a lasting impression of the wonders, challenges, and absurdities of modern life.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Gordon Lewis is a dedicated street photographer with over 40 years of experience. He began his writing career answering letters from owners of Olympus cameras, Vivitar flash units, and Kiron lenses. From there he graduated to being a contributing editor to magazines such as Camera 35, Petersen's Photographic, and Camera & Darkroom. Through unforeseen but fortuitous circumstances, he leveraged his irreverent wit into a TV sitcom-writing career, with hit shows such as Amen, Family Matters, and In Living Color to his credit. Now reformed, he earns his living as an e-learning instructional designer for Fortune 500 companies. Gordon lives just outside of Philadelphia-which, not coincidentally, is an excellent location for street photography.

This is a great introduction to so called street photography. I only wish that it was much longer and had more photographs by Lewis. He also steers clear of giving his opinion in various areas on the assumption that there are always other points of view. Commendable, but I would have appreciated knowing what he thinks in more detail, even at the risk of some controversy.

I'm usually careful about being negative when it comes to books; even if it's not a great volume it probably took the author a lot of work to create. But all the same, there are good options and there are not-so-good options for spending your hard-earned dough. This particular book doesn't quite make the cut. If you're buying this book for technical, or skill-based, learning, you're better off going somewhere else. The content is largely generic and the sort of thing that can be found anywhere on the web. I didn't get a good sense of the author's personal style or ethos. A better bet for technique would be The Street Photographer's Manual, also to be found here on .Of course, another main reason you would buy such a book is to look at great examples of street photography, and enjoy the author's personal style. Sadly, most of what is contained in this book is very commonplace, with little to recommend it. I'm looking for poignancy, juxtaposition, humor, energy... all of those things which

make a street photograph transcend time and location to speak to the larger human experience, but I'm having a hard time finding it in the work the author has chosen to show. It's almost as if the decisive moment was not waited for. I would like to be kinder, but I'm left with a feeling that this book was rushed to press by a publisher who wants to get in on the rising tide of modern street photography and not as a showcase of unique and powerful craft. Also, the book itself is of very low quality. The cover and pages both feel too thin and just cheap. Edit: 6-20-15. After letting this book settle in further, I actually took an additional star off of my review. Often street images bear multiple visits to really soak in their flavor and contents, but I can honestly count on one hand the images in this book that even interest me. On the other hand, dozens of them exhibit what I would call the wrong moment, or lack of patience or vision... "Uninspiring" is the word that really describes the author's work here depicted, just as "uninspired" is the right word to describe his advice. There is just no insight to be had here. I wanted to like this book, but it has left me quite cold.

I expected fantastic photos, but I thought that was all I would get. Instead I got advice that I will be able to return to as I take my second turn through the joys of photography. The narrative comes to me at a glorious time. I enjoyed photography intensely when I was younger, but had been very frustrated by the photos I've taken in the last decade (all low tech digital phone cameras). This book helped me realize that I can enjoy photography again -- I just need to reengage with proper tools. The narrative speaks to his skill as an educator, as it invites the beginner in, without ignoring or disrespecting readers with greater expertise. Can't say enough great things about the book. I have already bought a 2nd as a gift for a friend.

Uninspired book. I learned more about street photography from youtube than this book.

I would tend to second Conrad Obregon's review. It is very difficult to write a really good book about street photography. The basics can be covered in a magazine article. That much will tell all that is needed to get started. What we are all looking for is a book that will help us to make \*good\* (or at least better) street photography. That is a very different matter. This book is a gallant try. However, as one who has dabbled in street photography quite often, but with rather little to show for it all, I don't think I gained much by reading this book. There are many photos in the book, most are quite good but few are memorable. The fact is, I think, that good street photography demands a rather special talent, besides a great deal of practice.

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